

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 29, 1999 LB 216

that volunteer firemen and emergency medical people have been covered under this section, but it's never been spelled out in statute. And we think it's important that we know that when firemen go on training courses or training in their own community or they go to other areas for training that they will, in fact, be covered by the work comp's law. As I indicated, it's been assumed that they have been, but there's no actual statutory authority that they have been. And we think that it's necessary to do this to make sure that they're covered because, as most of you acknowledged in the past, it's important that we try to get more volunteer firemen and certainly if they're willing to volunteer we should protect them in all these cases. The other change that's been made in this simple amendment, it's something that's risen just in the past few years and that several volunteer fire departments in the state have formed...are formed as nonprofit corporations. Clarification is made in this amendment that these organizations will be covered by the workmen's compensation the same as members of rural fire protection districts or volunteer fire departments of cities and villages. This amendments make major changes...minor changes but it's important change in the work comp law that will help us again to convince more people to volunteer to work in these volunteer activities. There wasn't any opposition to this piece of legislation or this bill when it was in committee and I would certainly urge you to advance this bill. I'd be happy to answer any questions. I also would like to indicate that we also have added the emergency clause. With that, Mr. Speaker, that gives you a summation of what the bill will do and hope that you could consider advancing this under LB 216. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the Vrtiska amendment? Senator Vrtiska, you're recognized to close. He waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of that amendment. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Vrtiska's amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Senator Landis would move to amend. (AM1577,